

**Buckeye Institute Bail Reform Press Call
December 11, 2017**

RUN OF SHOW

1:20PM – Principals can call into Green Room (Jeff's team will call to remind you to do this if you haven't done so). Dial: [REDACTED]

- Rep. Dever – Pin: [REDACTED]
- Holly Harris – Pin: [REDACTED]
- Daniel Dew – Pin: [REDACTED]
- Lisa Gates – Pin: [REDACTED]

1:30PM– Media will join the call and the call technician will give some instructions, turning the call to Lisa.

1:32PM– Buckeye Institute Vice President of Communications, Lisa Gates, will thank everyone and introduce the speakers:

- Ohio State Representative Johnathan Dever who represents Ohio's 28 district in the Ohio House of Representatives and is the co-sponsor of House Bill 439.
- Holly Harris, executive director of Justice Action Network, largest bipartisan organization working to reform the justice system in Ohio and across the country.
- Daniel Dew, a legal fellow with The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center and the author of the Money Bail report.

1:34PM Rep. Dever remarks on his bill/need for bail reform

1:36PM Holly Harris remarks on need for bail reform in Ohio and across the country

1:38PM Daniel Dew remarks on the report

1:43PM Lisa Gates opens for moderated Q&A

- We will take questions as long as we are getting good quality ones (it usually takes about five or six before folks start repeating questions).

2:00PM Lisa Gates will close the call

- Reporters will be directed to the Buckeye Institute or Justice Action Network if they have further questions.

TALKING POINTS

Ohio must move away from a cash bail system and towards risk-based assessments that are proven to keep our communities safer and to reduce our prison population.

The 11 shocking and tragic stories profiled in the Buckeye Report make crystal clear why Ohio's cash bail system doesn't work.

- In 2015, Dragan Sekulic of Stark County, Ohio used his car as a battering ram attempting to kill his ex-wife, but two weeks later and free on \$100,000 in bail, Sekulic found his ex-wife and shot her.
- Meanwhile, Thomas Stepien was detained four days for a jaywalking charge, and when he could not afford a \$700 bail, he was eventually sentenced to six months of probation and 30 days in jail.
- And earlier this year, at least four innocent people were killed in Ohio during deadly shootouts between fugitives and bounty hunters.

Stories like the ones shared in the Buckeye Report are far too common in Ohio and across the United States.

That's why from Kentucky to Utah to New Jersey, states across the country are taking a hard look at their lopsided money bail systems.

We cannot allow wealthy, violent offenders to buy their way to freedom while leaving less wealthy people accused of petty crimes stuck behind bars for months.

In fact, pretrial detention can dramatically increase the likelihood that a defendant will return to prison.

Ohio must put public safety first, and HB 439 will do exactly that.

- HB 439 would move Ohio away from a system where access to cash dictates whether a person is released
- It would provide judges with more information on the risk an accused person poses to society, ensuring that public safety is the top priority for pretrial release decisions.
- These are proven, data-driven reforms designed to maintain public safety, address dangerously overcrowded jails, and save significant taxpayer dollars.
- Pilot programs on risk assessment tools, like the one in Lucas County, OH or Yuma County AZ, show a decrease in pretrial crime and the number of people failing to appear for court dates.
- And states that have passed bail reform—like New Jersey— have seen dramatic decreases in violent crime.

Leaders on the left and the right including Sens. Rand Paul to Kamala Harris in Washington D.C., the Buckeye Institute and ACLU in Ohio, along with the American Bar Association and bipartisan Ohio Sentencing Commission have all voiced concerns about the injustices and public safety failures of Ohio's status quo cash bail system.

It's time for Ohio to set an example for the nation that public safety is not for sale.

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 10:57 AM
To: Hucke, Justin
Subject: RE: Some logistics for Monday

Thanks Justin – I might be able to make it. I'll let you know.

From: Hucke, Justin
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 10:15 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: FW: Some logistics for Monday

FYI – I'm going to conference my boss in, if you'd like to join in my office at 1:20pm today.

From: Jeff Solnet [<mailto:jeff@precisionstrategies.com>]
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 7:51 AM
To: Kevin Schmidt <schmidt@sppgrp.com>
Cc: Lisa Gates <lisa@buckeyeinstitute.org>; Hucke, Justin <Justin.Hucke@ohiohouse.gov>; Jenna Moll - Justice <jenna@justiceactionnetwork.org>; Holly Harris - Justice <holly@justiceactionnetwork.org>; Precision USJAN Team <jan@precisionstrategies.com>; Patrick O'Connor <oconnor@cgcnc.com>; Gregory Blair <blair@cgcnc.com>; Daniel Dew <daniel@buckeyeinstitute.org>
Subject: Re: Some logistics for Monday

Hi all– A run of show and talking points are available in the attached. Justin– Nice to meet you. Below is the press advisory that the Buckeye Institute has sent out. Additionally, the Cleveland Plain Dealer is out with a curtain raiser this morning and Dayton Daily News covered the legislation on Friday.

Also, as of this morning reporters from Dayton Daily News, Gongwer News, NBC News, the Associated Press, and NPR have RSVP'd for the call.

Talk soon,
Jeff

**MEDIA ADVISORY - FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY, NOT FOR
BROADCAST OR PUBLICATION**

December 11, 2017

Contacts

The Buckeye Institute: Lisa Gates, (614) 224-3255, Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Justice Action Network: press@justiceactionnetwork.org

PRESS CALL

The Buckeye Institute Unveils

"Money Bail": Making Ohio a More Dangerous Place to Live

New Report Follows Just-Introduced Bail Reform Legislation

**** DIAL: [\(510\) 281-1113](tel:(510)281-1113) PW: 447869 ****

**** RSVP HERE ****

Columbus, OH -- Today, The Buckeye Institute and Justice Action Network will unveil a new report by Buckeye's Daniel J. Dew that explains the need for cash bail reform in Ohio.

Titled "*Money Bail: Making Ohio a More Dangerous Place to Live*", the report outlines how relying on cash bail hurts the poor at the expense of taxpayers and gives dangerous defendants the opportunity to buy their way out of jail.

EMBARGOED COPY OF REPORT. The embargo will lift at 1:30PM ET.

WHAT: Press Call w/ State Representative, The Buckeye Institute
to Unveil Bail Reform Report

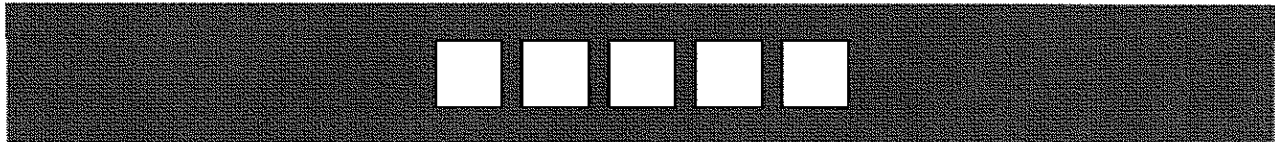
WHEN: MONDAY, December 11 at 1:30PM ET

WHERE: Dial: [REDACTED]
Pin: [REDACTED]

WHO: State Rep. Jonathan Dever (R-28)
Daniel Dew, Legal Fellow at The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center
Holly Harris, Executive Director of the Justice Action Network

RSVP: Click [here](#) or email: press@justiceactionnetwork.org or
Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

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The Buckeye
Institute, 88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

--
Jeff Solnet
Principal
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P R E C I S I O N » www.precisionstrategies.com

On Fri, Dec 8, 2017 at 4:06 PM, Kevin Schmidt <schmidt@sppgrp.com> wrote:

Looping in Justin Huckle in this thread. Justin is Rep. Dever's aide and is compiling a dossier for the Rep of all communication documents, stories, etc. so the Rep can stay on message with the group.

Can we send him anything we've sent out to the press so far and any talking points we have?

On Fri, Dec 8, 2017 at 3:00 PM, Lisa Gates <lisa@buckeyeinstitute.org> wrote:

Jeff will send out some more information and scripts separately, but I wanted to get you a brief outline of how the call will run. Since it is Buckeye's report we thought it best if I am the MC.

Let me know if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, etc.

1:20PM Principals can call into Green Room (Jeff's team will call to remind you to do this if you haven't done so).

1:30PM Media will join the call and the call technician will give some instructions and turn to over to me.

1:32PM Lisa will thank everyone introduce the speakers (name and titles only) State Representative Johnathan Dever who represents Ohio's 28 district in the Ohio House of Representatives and is the co-sponsor of House Bill 439.

Holly Harris, executive director of Justice Action Network, largest bipartisan organization working to reform the justice system in Ohio and across the country.

Daniel Dew, a legal fellow with The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center and the author of the Money Bail report.

1:34PM Rep. Dever remarks on his bill/need for bail reform

1:36PM Holly remarks on need for bail reform

1:38PM Daniel remarks on the report (Daniel you actually get a bit longer since you will be giving the overview of the report)

1:43PM Lisa opens for Q&A (don't worry, Jeff and Lisa will be running this behind the scenes it will not be a free for all of yelling reporters).

We will take questions as long as we are getting good quality ones (it usually takes about five or six before folks start repeating questions).

Lisa will close the call and let reporters know they are welcome to call Buckeye or Justice Action Network if they have further questions.

Lisa A. Gates

Vice President of Communications

The Buckeye Institute

88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215

(614) 224-3255 | BuckeyeInstitute.org

--
Kevin Schmidt
Vice President of Government Relations
C: 614.507.1050 | schmidt@sppgrp.com

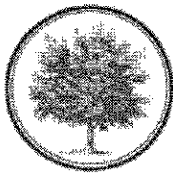
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 1:20 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: New Buckeye Report Finds Ohio's "Money Bail" System is Dangerous to Communities

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

New Buckeye Report Finds Ohio's "Money Bail" System is Dangerous to Communities

Columbus, OH -- Today, The Buckeye Institute released its latest policy report, *"Money Bail": Making Ohio a More Dangerous Place to Live*, which looks at the need for Ohio to replace its failing cash bail system with proven risk-assessment tools that provide a fairer, more efficient way to keep Ohio's communities safe and secure.

"The traditional money bail scheme is in dire need of reform, it is an inefficient, expensive, unfair means of protecting communities that has proven no guarantee to stopping repeat offenders," said **Daniel J. Dew**, a legal fellow with The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center** and author of the report. "Under our current system, accused murderers, child rapists, and armed robbers are arrested and released into our communities because they have access to money, while citizens accused of jaywalking, violating dress-codes, or failing to pay traffic

tickets sit in jail for days, weeks, or even months because they have little or no access to cash. We can and must do better."

Recommendations and Alternative Tools

In *Money Bail*, Dew recommends the use of evidence-based, risk-assessment tools to assess the risk an individual poses, such as their criminal history, the offense, and prior missed court dates. These tools give judges greater flexibility and resources to hold defendants accountable pending trial, and to deny release when there is clear evidence that the accused poses significant risks to the community. Dew also suggests a number of alternatives to cash bail, such as electronic monitoring, mandatory counseling, and routine check-ins that allow judges to hold defendants accountable.

Proven Success of Risk-Assessment Tools

The risk-assessment tools Dew recommends have proven successful in communities where they have been used. **Lucas County** has seen more defendants released before trial, more defendants appearing for trial, and less crime committed by those awaiting trial. Defendants arrested while on pretrial release dropped from 20 percent to 10 percent, and skipped court dates dropped by 12 percent, even as the number of people released without money bail doubled.

Where the Current System Failed

Dew also looks at 11 cases in Ohio where the current money bail system failed, including that of **Dragan Sekulic** of Stark County, who, after attempting to kill his ex-wife with his car, was released on \$100,000 bond. While he awaited trial, he shot and killed Zeljka.

On the other end of the spectrum is the case of **Markcus Brown** who spent nine days in jail after being arrested for trespassing when his clothes violated the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority's dress code. After his arrest, Brown's bail was set at \$150, which his family could not afford. As a result, Brown sat in jail until his mother secured a car title loan nine days later.

"The Buckeye Institute's expose on money bail is a disturbing indictment of a justice system that often jails poor people for petty crimes, and allows those accused of sexual and violent crimes to buy their way to freedom," said Holly Harris of the **Justice Action Network**. "Fortunately, we now have legislation in HB 439 that would empower judges to make pre-trial release decisions based on the threat an accused person poses to society, and not on how much cash that person can pony up to the court. Given the disturbing case studies on money bail unearthed by Buckeye, some of which led to heartbreaking deaths, it is difficult to imagine any legislator on either side of the aisle voting against this bill."

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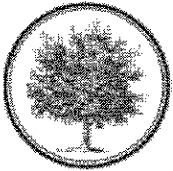
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Subject: New Buckeye Report Finds Ohio's "Money Bail" System is Dangerous to Communities

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Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



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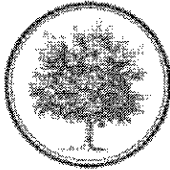
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 3:01 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Competition in Ohio's Electricity Market Will Save Ohioans Money and Improve Economy

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

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December 12, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Competition in Ohio's Electricity Market Will Save Ohioans Money and Improve Economy

Greg Lawson Offers Testimony to Ohio House Public Utilities Committee

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson submitted **written testimony** (see full text below) today to the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee on the need to increase competition in Ohio's electricity market and the important reform policies found in House Bill 247.

Lawson opened his testimony outlining the challenge Ohio faces, "Ohio's hybrid restructuring model is unworkable and policymakers must either go back to a fully integrated, regulated structure or complete the electricity market reforms that the General Assembly initiated in 1999."

In making this case, Lawson illustrated the need for further reform to increase competition and lower prices if Ohio is going to continue to experience economic growth.

"Manufacturing is the single largest sector in the state in terms of gross domestic product and manufacturers typically count electricity as one of their largest expenditures." Lawson went on, "Technology companies are increasingly counting Ohio as a candidate for new sites, and a more competitive electricity market should help to attract and retain these investments."

Lawson noted that reforms proposed in House Bill 247 would:

- Allow many Ohio households and businesses to save money on their electric bill and put it towards other uses;
- Permit the **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio** or the courts to issue refunds to customers for electric company charges that are deemed improper; and
- Would increase competition by ending non-transparent price schemes that can facilitate anti-competitive and unfair cross-subsidization between utilities and power plants they own through affiliated companies.

These types of reforms, Lawson says, "Would make Ohio a better place to do business and make it easier for low-income individuals to pay their electric bills."

###

**Interested Party Testimony
Submitted to the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee
on House Bill 247**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions
December 12, 2017**

Chairman Cupp, Vice Chairman Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak about the important electricity market reform policies found in House Bill 247. My name is Greg R. Lawson and I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, a free-market think tank here in Columbus.

There is a serious problem at hand in our electric market that requires good policy to fix: Wholesale electricity prices have fallen dramatically since 2009, but the retail price that customers actually pay has only continued to increase.[1] This problem is holding back the Ohio economy.

Historically, it is now clear that Ohio's hybrid restructuring model is unworkable and policymakers must either go back to a fully integrated, regulated structure or complete the electricity market reforms that the General Assembly initiated in 1999.

Manufacturing is the single largest sector in the state in terms of gross domestic product,[2] and manufacturers typically count electricity as one of their largest expenditures. Making the electricity market more price competitive will help this important sector to compete on the global market and continue to employ Ohioans.

Low-cost electricity is also a key factor for data centers and other infrastructure of the information sector. Technology companies are increasingly counting Ohio as a candidate for new sites, and a more competitive electricity market should help to attract and retain these investments. Critically, the issue of cross-subsidization must be addressed. Electric utilities must not be able to obtain anticompetitive subsidies for affiliate generation. Allowing this to happen undermines the market.

Policies within HB 247 would appear to improve Ohio's present state of competitiveness.

First, it would eliminate electric security plans (ESP). Historically, Ohio's electric utilities have used these plans to inflate rates above the market price. Eliminating these plans would require electric utilities to only charge customers the market price for generation, not an ESP inflated price. This reform would therefore allow many Ohio households and businesses to save money on their electric bill and put it towards other uses.

Second, it would permit the **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio** or the courts to issue refunds to customers for charges that are deemed improper. This provision would force the ratemaking procedure to be more transparent and fairer on the front side by ensuring that customers can be fully made whole.

Third, it would restrict monopoly utilities from owning power plants, even through an affiliate company. While eliminating ESPs alone may be able to limit potential cross-subsidization from these relationships, a requirement that electric utilities fully divest their generation assets would guarantee that utility affiliated generation cannot gain an unfair competitive advantage. Further, in light of the millions of dollars of transition revenues that utilities have already collected over the years, such separation is less draconian today than it was in the early days of restructuring.

In all likelihood, requiring owners of generation to be fully independent of any regulated utility would increase the competitiveness of the sector and lead to a more favorable outcome for Ohioans over the long run.[3]

In conclusion, Ohio is in desperate need of greater competitiveness, transparency, and fairness in its electricity market. Reforms such as, or similar to, those in HB 247 would make Ohio a better place to do business and make it easier for low-income individuals to pay their electric bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

[1] Russ Keller, "Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement: H.B. 247 of the 132nd General Assembly, As Introduced," Ohio Legislative Service Commission, November 28, 2017.

[2] *Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes & the Economy*, The Buckeye Institute and Tax Foundation, June 7, 2017.

[3] Joe Nichols and Devin Hartman, *Don't Short Circuit the Ohio Electricity Market*, The Buckeye Institute and RStreet Institute, October 16, 2017.

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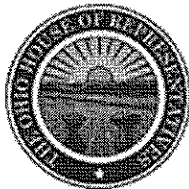
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Hinman, Will
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 12:41 PM
To: Committee_PublicUtilities_List_ALL; Committee_PublicUtilities_List_DEM;
Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP
Subject: Additional written testimony from yesterday's House Public Utilities
Committee (12-12-17)
Attachments: buckeyeinstitute.IP.hb247.written.pdf

Members of the House Public Utilities Committee,

Please see the attached document, it is written interested party testimony on HB 247 from Greg Lawson with Buckeye Institute. It was unintentionally omitted from yesterday's hearing, but will be added to the record to reflect that it was submitted to our office prior to the start of committee yesterday. Let me know if there are questions.



Will Hinman
Legislative Aide to State Representative Bob Cupp
Ohio House of Representatives
will.hinman@ohiohouse.gov
(614) 466-9624
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215





THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

**Interested Party Testimony Before the
Ohio House Public Utilities Committee on
House Bill 247**

December 12, 2017

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions**

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There is a serious problem at hand in our electric market that requires good policy to fix: Wholesale electricity prices have fallen dramatically since 2009, but the retail price that customers actually pay has only continued to increase.¹ This problem is holding back the Ohio economy.

Historically, it is now clear that Ohio's hybrid restructuring model is unworkable and policymakers must either go back to a fully integrated, regulated structure or complete the electricity market reforms that the General Assembly initiated in 1999.

Manufacturing is the single largest sector in the state in terms of Gross Domestic Product,² and manufacturers typically count electricity as one of their largest expenditures. Making the electricity market more price competitive will help this important sector to compete on the global market and continue to employ Ohioans.

Low-cost electricity is also a key factor for data centers and other infrastructure of the information sector. Technology companies are increasingly counting Ohio as a candidate for new sites, and a more competitive electricity market should help to attract and retain these investments. Critically, the issue of cross-subsidization must be addressed. Electric utilities must not be able to obtain anticompetitive subsidies for affiliate generation. Allowing this to happen undermines the market.

¹ Russ Keller, "Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement: H.B. 247 of the 132nd General Assembly, As Introduced," Ohio Legislative Service Commission, November 28, 2017, <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=8111&format=pdf>.

² The Buckeye Institute and Tax Foundation, "Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes & the Economy," June 7, 2017, <https://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/library/doclib/2017-06-07-Ohio-Illustrated-A-Visual-Guide-to-Taxes-And-the-Economy.pdf>.

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First, it would eliminate electric security plans (ESPs). Historically, Ohio's electric utilities have used these plans to inflate rates above the market price. Eliminating these plans would require electric utilities to only charge customers the market price for generation, not an ESP-inflated price. This reform would therefore allow many Ohio households and businesses to save money on their electric bill and put it towards other uses.

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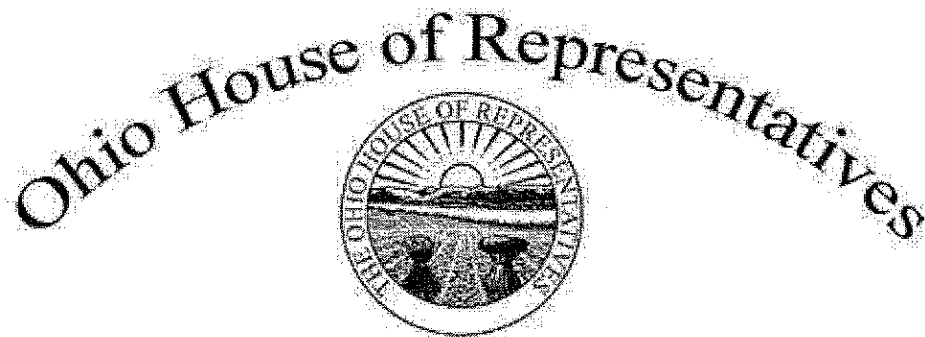
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In all likelihood, requiring owners of generation to be fully independent of any regulated utility would increase the competitiveness of the sector and lead to a more favorable outcome for Ohioans over the long run.³

In conclusion, Ohio is in desperate need of greater competitiveness, transparency, and fairness in its electricity market. Reforms such as, or similar to, those in HB 247 would make Ohio a better place to do business and make it easier for low-income individuals to pay their electric bills. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

³ Joe Nichols and Devin Hartman, "Don't Short Circuit the Ohio Electricity Market," The Buckeye Institute and R Street Institute, <https://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/library/doclib/2017-10-16-Don-t-Short-Circuit-the-Ohio-Electricity-Market-By-Joe-Nichols-and-Devin-Hartman.pdf>.

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe
Subject: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

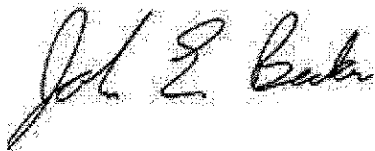
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2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.

4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent.
5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
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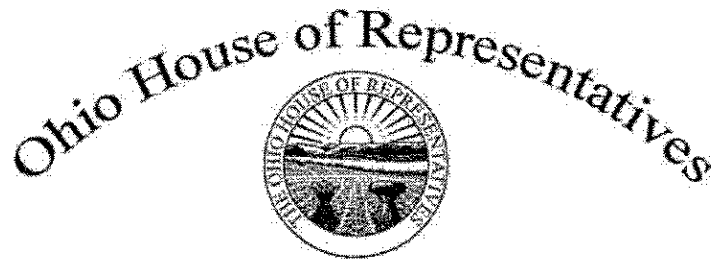
These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.



John Becker
State Representative
65th House District



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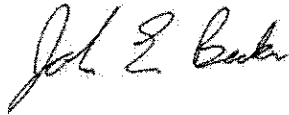
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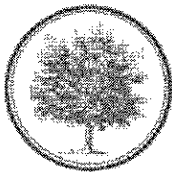
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 7:04 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: New Buckeye Report Finds Occupational Licensing Hits Older and Lower-Income Workers Hardest

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

New Buckeye Report Finds Occupational Licensing Hits Older and Lower-Income Workers Hardest

Columbus, OH -- Today, The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center released its latest policy report, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*. The report found that the burden of Ohio's occupational licensing requirements has a greater impact on middle-aged and low-income workers, and those without a college degree. In essence, occupational licensing erects barriers to employment to those most in need of good-paying jobs.

"This research offers more evidence of the negative impact of occupational licensing. We have known for years that licensing requirements reduce job creation in Ohio and make it harder for people to get jobs," said Greg R. Lawson, a research fellow at The Buckeye Institute and one of the authors of the report. "This study shows that licensing requirements

also impose a disproportionate burden on job seekers -- placing a particularly onerous burden on low-income, minority, and non-college educated Ohioans."

Using a macroeconomic dynamic scoring model -- developed by economists at Buckeye's **Economic Research Center** -- and data collected by the **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics**, the report's authors discovered that Ohio's licensing requirements have prevented more than 7,000 people between the ages of 25-45 from pursuing licensed occupations, and has discouraged people from migrating to Ohio to enter the job market. The authors also discovered that high licensing costs keep workers from good-paying professions, and suggests that without such costs more workers would find employment.

Still Forbidden to Succeed was authored by Dr. Orphe Pierre Divounguy, former economist with The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center; Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute; and Bryce Hill, a former economic research assistant with the Economic Research Center. This new study builds on Buckeye's previous research on occupational licensing, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:05 PM
To: Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Miller, Brad; Slack, Cora
CC: Michalowski, Joe; Lenzo, Mike; Lundregan, Scott
Subject: ALERT: Becker Right-to-Work (Sending @ 1)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
December 18, 2017

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

State Representative John Becker Announces Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

COLUMBUS—State Representative John Becker (R-Union Township) today announced six Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments as follows:

- **Private-sector Right-to-Work** – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this amendment will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
- **Public-sector Right-to-Work** – This legislation is about freedom of association. The same as the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
- **Public-sector Prevailing Wage** – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
- **Public-sector Paycheck Protection** – This amendment prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.
- **Public-sector Project Labor Agreements** – This legislation is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from minimizing competition for

construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.

- Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This amendment will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

With these proposals, Becker asks Ohio's General Assembly to put all of them on the ballot for the people to vote on individually.

"Now that 28 states, and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states, have enacted Right-to-Work laws, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment," said Becker. "Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future."

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 6:30 PM
To: DL Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Monday, December 18, 2017

Monday, December 18, 2017

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

[Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.](#)

Today's Stories

- [Kasich Seeks to Give Last 'State of State' in Westerville on March 6](#)
- [Kasich Names Laubert Acting Director of ODA](#)
- [Senate Plans to Address Voting Machine Funding, Obhof Says](#)
- [Controlling Board Approves Combined DYS/DRC Office Lease](#)
- [IG Chides DAS for IT Procurement Practices](#)
- [Becker Proposes Six Right to Work Constitutional Amendments](#)
- [ODH Elevates Flu Level to 'Widespread'](#)
- [Turnpike Commission Approves Budgets, Toll Modernization Plans](#)
- [OSU Toy Adaptation Program Helps Fix Toys for Children with Special Needs](#)
- [By the Numbers: Legislative Activity in 2017](#)
- [State Government Roundup: ODNR](#)
- [Campaign Corner: Jolivet; Endorsements](#)
- [Ohio Digest: U.S. HHS](#)
- [Ohio Attorney General Opinion Request](#)
- [Judicial Actions: Parades; Opinion](#)

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Hannah News Service, Inc. | 21 W. Broad Street, Suite 1000, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | 614.227.5820 | www.hannah.com

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 9:12 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe
Subject: NBC 4

Hi Joe,

Jason Aubry from NBC 4 contacted me late yesterday. He is interested in doing an on-camera interview with Rep. Becker regarding his right to work constitutional amendments and was wondering about his availability. Perhaps he has already reached out to you as well.

It is completely up to Rep. Becker whether he is available or interested in doing the interview. He should not feel obligated either way. I will leave that up to your office, but wanted to pass along this information.

Jason Aubry's phone number is 614-648-8486. Email: jaubry@wcmh.com.

Thank you,

Brad Miller
Deputy Communications Director / Press Secretary
Office of Speaker Clifford Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives
(614) 466-8759

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 10:21 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: RE: NBC 4

Brad,

I haven't been able to get a hold of Rep. Becker about this interview request yet, but Jason appears to be on a tight deadline and told me he's "waiting around". To my knowledge, Rep. Becker wasn't planning to be in Columbus until Thursday for non-voting and another meeting.

Do Members' on-camera interviews typically take place in the Statehouse studio or at the requesting station?

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: Miller, Brad
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Brad Miller

Deputy Communications Director / Press Secretary
Office of Speaker Clifford Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives
(614) 466-8759

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 10:33 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe
Subject: RE: NBC 4

Hi Joe,

Thanks for the information. Rep. Becker shouldn't feel obligated to change any of his travel plans, unless he really wants to. Most interviews with Jason Aubry occur in the Statehouse – not the OGT studio, but rather in the rotunda or in a committee room. Wherever you guys agree on. Jason is very accommodating. He's even come to members' offices in the Riffe if it works better for them. So that should be mostly flexible, I'd assume.

Thanks,
Brad

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 10:21 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: NBC 4

Brad,

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Brad Miller

Deputy Communications Director / Press Secretary
Office of Speaker Clifford Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives
(614) 466-8759

From: Rep30
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 4:18 PM
To: Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP
Subject: RE: Enclosed PowerPoint Presentation

I respond briefly to my colleague's December 15 memo. Representative Romanchuk can be assured "getting to real business in the new year" does not mean that we are going to pass an unnecessary tax on our constituents, if I have anything to say about it. Nothing in the bills pending before our committee entails any tax whatsoever.

I disagree with his assertion that the PowerPoint presentations that I shared with you from my ALEC winter meeting are inapplicable to Ohio or its electric market. The need for reliable and resilient fuel generation sources is as big an issue here as it is in Texas or anywhere else. Coal and nuclear are reliable and resilient. Abandoning the field solely to volatile market prices for gas (and renewables, which are neither reliable nor resilient) would cause the same problems for Ohio that the experts see emerging in Texas' wholly deregulated generation market. HB 247 would wholly deregulate electric generation markets in Ohio, without any effective method of replacing what some claim to be "an outdated rate mechanism", the electric security plan option that is currently available. Essentially, the state of Ohio would abdicate any ability to ensure a reliable, resilient, and diverse fuel supply and leave that to the federal authorities.

Every one of the three items addressed by HB 247 are important issues to address. "Getting down to real business" means determining whether these issues are being correctly addressed by the bill; collaboratively deciding how better to address them; and respecting the order established by leadership in which energy issues are to be addressed in this session.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Bill

From: Rep02
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 1:29 PM
To: Rep30 <Rep30@ohiohouse.gov>; Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP <DL_Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP@ohiohouse.gov>; Willamowski, Sheila <Sheila.Willamowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Enclosed PowerPoint Presentation

Chairman Cupp, GOP Committee Members, Ryan and Sheila,

The presentations regarding the Texas system do not apply to Ohio and our electric market.

HB 247 addresses three items unique to Ohio:

- It eliminates an outdated rate mechanism which is now being used against Ohioans
- It requires refunds to Ohioans if an electric rate has been ruled unlawful
- It prohibits utilities that are in the distribution business from owning electric generation (which mirrors the deregulation legislation passed in 1999-SB3)

If "getting down to real business in the new year" means that we are going to pass an unnecessary tax on our constituents...NO THANKS.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Mark

From: Rep30

Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 4:40 PM

To: Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP

<DL_Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP@ohiohouse.gov>; Willamowski, Sheila

<Sheila.Willamowski@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Enclosed PowerPoint Presentation

Republican Members of Public Utilities Committee, Lehman, Sheila

RE: Enclosed PowerPoint presentation

As we continue to look at the complex electricity issues contained in bills pending before our committee, I commend to your attention the enclosed PowerPoint presentation which, among other things, emphasizes the need for resiliency and reliability in preserving baseload electricity plants and also points out that the Texas wholly deregulated generation market is not all that it is cracked up to be—a cautionary tale lest we attempt to replicate that model, as HB 247 would have us do. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. I hope we can get down to real business in the new year.

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:39 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 12/20/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS 12/20/2017

The Columbus Dispatch
Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper

REPORT SUGGESTS STATE AGENCY ALREADY HAS VIOLATED NEW CONTRACTING POLICY

After The Dispatch revealed the Ohio Department of Administrative Services awarded \$15 million in unbid contracts to favored information-technology consultants, the agency promised to clean up its act.

NEW WHALEY AD PRAISES WORK, PROMISES JOBS

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley has released a new internet ad touting the dignity of work as she seeks the Democratic nomination for governor.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

LEHNER'S BILL AIMS TO CHANGE OHIO TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM

The Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) could see significant changes if a bill recently introduced by State Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) becomes law.

STATE SENATOR TO RUN FOR MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSION

State Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) today declared his candidacy for a seat on the Miami County Commission.

THE ENQUIRER

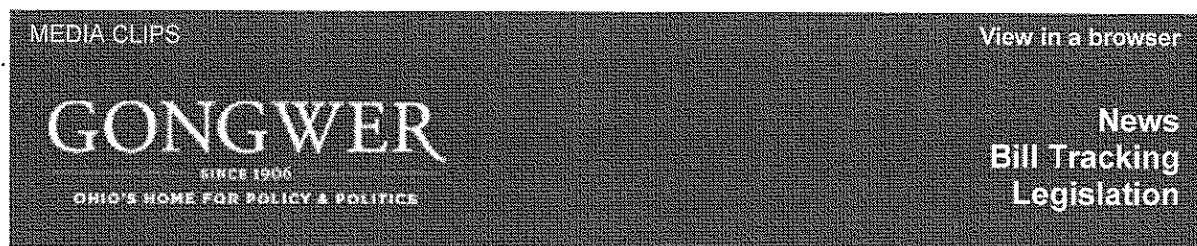
'RIGHT TO WORK' IN OHIO? GOP LAWMAKER WANTS VOTERS TO CHOOSE

Undeterred by the acrimonious fight over Senate Bill 5, GOP Rep. John Becker wants voters to choose whether Ohio should become a right-to-work state.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:43 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, December 20

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NEWS

Federal judge dismisses legal effort to stop gas pipeline (Associated Press, 12/20/2017)

Ohio attorney general not joining legal fight over net neutrality (Associated Press, 12/20/2017)

'Right to work' in Ohio? Becker wants voters to choose (Cincinnati Enquirer, 12/20/2017)

Your tax bill savings might not be as big as advertised. The economic development benefits might not be, either (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 12/20/2017)

New Whaley ad praises work, promises jobs (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Report suggests state agency already has violated new contracting policy (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Stivers announces net neutrality bill (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Tax revision almost law; one more vote left (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Lehner's bill aims to change Ohio teacher evaluation system (Dayton Daily News, 12/20/2017)

Report: Ohio cities facing fiscal stress despite improving economy (Dayton Daily News, 12/20/2017)

Senate passes GOP tax bill; House to revote Wednesday (Dayton Daily News, 12/20/2017)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: 2012 effort a dog of a law (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Editorial: Truth and news under assault (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

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From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 2:43 PM
To: Michalowski, Joe
CC: Basie, Margaret
Subject: Becker & Riedel REVISED Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Becker & Riedel Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf

Importance: High

Representative Craig S. Riedel

has signed on to all six of these constitutional amendments as a joint sponsor with Rep. Becker.

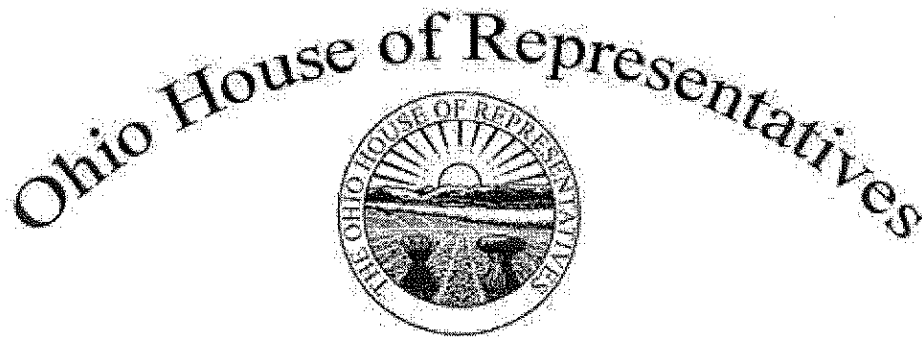
Each of the six amendments would appear on Ohio's general election ballot on November 3, 2020.

The current co-sponsors of all six are: Rep. Thompson, Rep. Brinkman, Rep. Dean, Rep. Keller, Rep. Roegner, and Rep. Zeltwanger. Rep. Lang is a co-sponsor on the following constitutional amendments: private-sector right-to-work (amendment #1); public-sector prevailing wage (amendment #3); and public-

sector project labor agreements (amendment #5).

Rep. Vitale is a co-sponsor on public-sector right-to-work (amendment #2).

Revised deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY at 5:00 PM. Please note which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor.



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

Representative Craig S. Riedel
Ohio's 82nd House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker and Representative Craig S. Riedel
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017
RE: REVISED: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

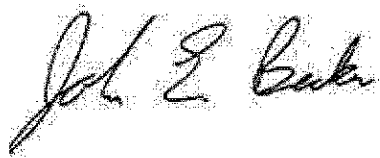
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If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY- Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

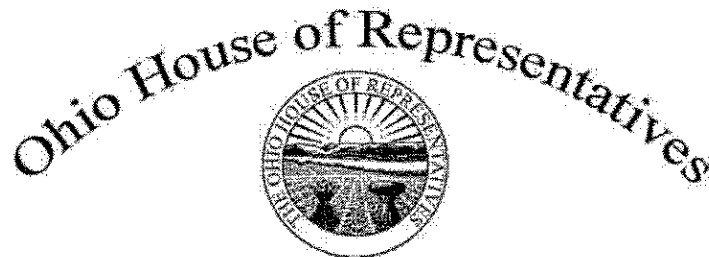
Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

Handwritten signature of John E. Becker in cursive script.

John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

Handwritten signature of Craig S. Riedel in cursive script.

Craig S. Riedel
State Representative
82nd House District



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

Representative Craig S. Riedel
Ohio's 82nd House District

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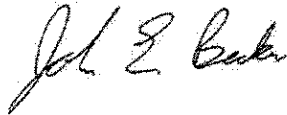
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6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers’ bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. The deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY-Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.



John Becker
State Representative
65th House District



Craig S. Riedel
State Representative
82nd House District

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 9:46 AM
To: 'garret.phipps@ohiohouse.gov'
Subject: FW: Becker & Riedel REVISED Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Becker & Riedel Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf

Importance: High

This was the last thing Rep. Becker's office sent around. So I don't think any of these things have a number yet, or exactly what form of legislation they would become.

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 2:43 PM
To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Basie, Margaret <Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Becker & Riedel REVISED Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Importance: High

Representative Craig S. Riedel

has signed on to all six of these constitutional amendments as a joint sponsor with Rep. Becker.

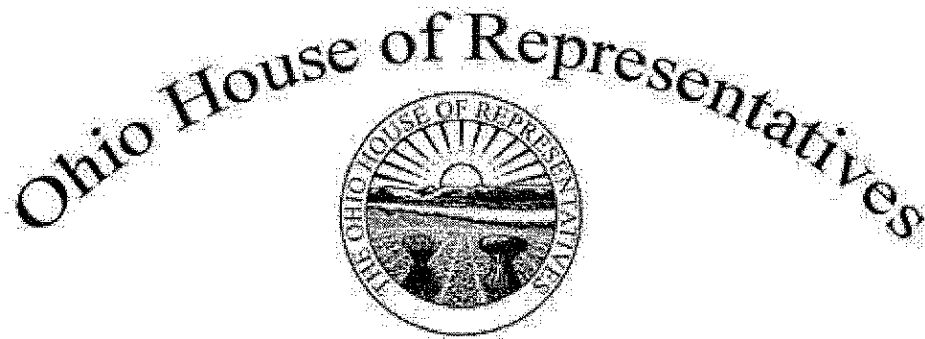
Each of the six amendments would appear on Ohio's general election ballot on November 3, 2020.

The current co-sponsors of all six are: Rep. Thompson, Rep. Brinkman, Rep. Dean, Rep. Keller, Rep. Roegner, and Rep. Zeltwanger.

Rep. Lang is a co-sponsor on the following constitutional amendments: private-sector right-to-work (amendment #1); public-sector prevailing wage (amendment #3); and public-sector project labor agreements (amendment #5).

Rep. Vitale is a co-sponsor on public-sector right-to-work (amendment #2).

Revised deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY at 5:00 PM. Please note which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor.



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

Representative Craig S. Riedel
Ohio's 82nd House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker and Representative Craig S. Riedel
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017

RE: REVISED: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

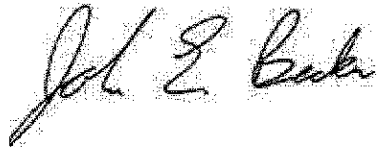
The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
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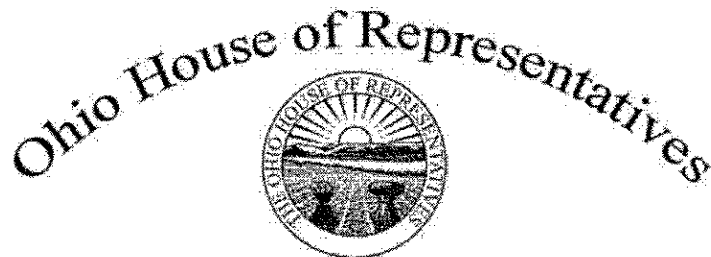
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John Becker
State Representative
65th House District



Craig S. Riedel
State Representative
82nd House District



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

Representative Craig S. Riedel
Ohio's 82nd House District

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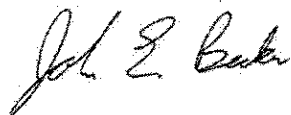
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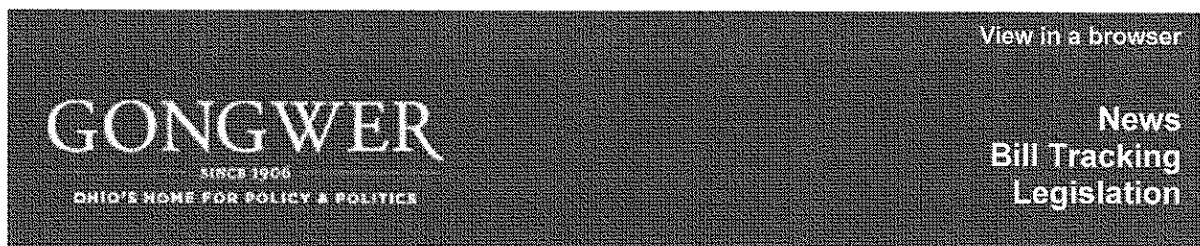


Craig S. Riedel
State Representative
82nd House District

From: gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service
[gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 12:00 PM
To: Standard_Subscriber_misc_html@gongwer-oh.com
Subject: House & Senate Floor Reports

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HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

HJR 7

UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)

Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of public sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember public sector employees in employment-related matters.

HJR 8**UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of private sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember private sector employees in employment-related matters.

HJR 9**PREVAILING WAGE (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 43 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement to pay the contractor's workers the prevailing rate of wages for work performed on the public improvement.

HJR 10**PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 2 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts.

HJR 11**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative.

HJR 12**UNION DUES (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit dues and other fees payable to an employee organization

from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and to prohibit those dues and fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the public employee.

HB 454

CEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.)

To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner.

SENATE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

SB 246

STUDENT REMOVAL (Lehner, P., Manning, G.)

To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation.

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

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From: Kent Cahlander
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 12:07 PM
To: Miller, Brad
CC: AA-Mikel Livingston
Subject: right to work

Hey Brad,

Is the speaker supportive of putting a right-to-work issue on the ballot next year per Becker's resolution dropped today? Thanks

Kent Cahlander, Editor
Gongwer News Service Ohio
@kent_gongwer; @gongwer
W-614-221-1992; C-614-738-6486

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SINCE 1906
OHIO'S HOME FOR POLICY & POLITICS

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 2:56 PM
To: Kent Cahlander
CC: AA-Mikel Livingston
Subject: RE: right to work

Hi Kent - working on this currently. Hope to have you something soon.

From: Kent Cahlander [mailto:kcahlander@gongwer-oh.com]
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OHIO'S HOME FOR POLICY & POLITICS

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 3:08 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: House Journal Summary - Dec. 21, 2017

House Journal Summary
ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH DAY
(Nonvoting Session)
December 21, 2017

INTRODUCED

- HB454** UNUSED CEMETERY LOTS-TOWNSHIPS (Rep. John Patterson, Rep. Steve Arndt) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner.
- HJR7** PUBLIC SECTOR UNION PROHIBITIONS (Rep. John Becker, Rep. Craig Riedel) Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of public sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember public sector employees in employment-related matters.
- HJR8** PRIVATE SECTOR UNION PROHIBITIONS (Rep. John Becker, Rep. Craig Riedel) Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of private sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember private sector employees in employment-related matters.
- HJR9** PUBLIC CONTRACTOR WAGE PROHIBITIONS (Rep. John Becker, Rep. Craig Riedel) Proposing to enact Section 43 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement to pay the contractor's workers the prevailing rate of wages for work performed on the public improvement.
- HJR10** GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS-REQUIREMENT PROHIBITIONS (Rep. John Becker, Rep. Craig Riedel) Proposing to enact Section 2 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts.
- HJR11** COLLECTIVE BARGAINING REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS (Rep. John Becker, Rep. Craig Riedel) Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative.
- HJR12** PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS-LABOR DUES (Rep. John Becker, Rep. Craig Riedel) Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit dues and other fees payable to an employee organization from being deducted from the payroll check of a public

employee and to prohibit those dues and fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the public employee.

The House adjourned until Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017 at 9 a.m. (Nonvoting Session)

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Journal Summaries and Session Agendas

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From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 3:37 PM
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CC: 'AA-Mikel Livingston'
Subject: RE: right to work

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The issue of right-to-work has been brought forward numerous times in recent years, and it always generates an important and interesting discussion amongst the caucus. Since Rep. Becker's resolution was introduced just today, Speaker Rosenberger will review the legislation and will seek input from caucus members before any potential future actions are determined.

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Brad

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OHIO'S HOME FOR POLICY & POLITICS

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Miller, Brad; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora
CC: Michalowski, Joe; Lundregan, Scott; Basie, Margaret
Subject: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
December 21, 2017

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

State Representatives John Becker and Craig S. Riedel announce Introduction of Six Right-to-Work Ohio Constitutional Amendments

COLUMBUS—State Representatives John Becker (R-Union Township) and Craig S. Riedel (R-Defiance) today announced that nine additional Members have signed onto one or more of six Right-to-Work related Ohio constitutional amendments.

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With 11 State Representatives sponsoring one or more of them, Becker and Riedel are asking Ohio's General Assembly to put all of them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. "Now that 28 states- and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states- have enacted Right-to-Work laws, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment," said Becker. "Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future," Becker continued. "I believe in individual freedom, and the right of a worker to be able to choose whether or not they want to belong to a union," Riedel added. "By bringing these Right-to-Work amendments forward as ballot issues, we are allowing the citizens of Ohio to have the final say."

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Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 5:00 PM
To: Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora
CC: Michalowski, Joe; Lundregan, Scott; Basie, Margaret
Subject: RE: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby
<Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Lundregan, Scott
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(insert space)

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Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 5:00 PM

To: Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora

CC: Michalowski, Joe; Lundregan, Scott; Basie, Margaret

Subject: RE: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)

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From: Best, Carolyn

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:56 PM

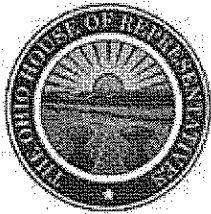
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby

<Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>

Cc: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Lundregan, Scott

<Scott.Lundregan@ohiohouse.gov>; Basie, Margaret <Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov>

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OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Contact: Joe Michalowski

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 5:01 PM
To: Miller, Brad; Best, Carolyn; Slack, Cora
CC: Michalowski, Joe; Lundregan, Scott; Basie, Margaret
Subject: RE: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)

Libby Westlake

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Correspondence
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger | Ohio House of Representatives
(614) 728-5448

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 5:00 PM
To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby
<Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Lundregan, Scott
<Scott.Lundregan@ohiohouse.gov>; Basie, Margaret <Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby
<Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Lundregan, Scott
<Scott.Lundregan@ohiohouse.gov>; Basie, Margaret <Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
December 21, 2017

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

State Representatives John Becker and Craig S. Riedel Announce Introduction of Six Right-to-Work Ohio Constitutional Amendments

COLUMBUS—State Representatives John Becker (R-Union Township) and Craig S. Riedel (R-Defiance) today announced that nine additional ~~Members~~ (members) have signed onto one or more of six Right-to-Work related Ohio constitutional amendments.

- HJR 8: Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Furthermore, this amendment will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”

- HJR 7: Public-sector Right-to-Work – This legislation is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.

- HJR 9: Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.

- HJR 12: Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This amendment prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.

- HJR 10: Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This legislation is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from minimizing competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.

- HJR 11: Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers’ bargaining units. This amendment will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

With 11 ~~State Representatives~~ (state representatives) sponsoring one or more of them, Becker and Riedel are asking Ohio’s General Assembly to put all of them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. “Now that 28 ~~states~~ and four out of five of Ohio’s ~~neighboring states~~ (turn into long dashes) have enacted Right-to-Work laws, the nation’s future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment,” said Becker. “Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio’s future,” Becker continued.

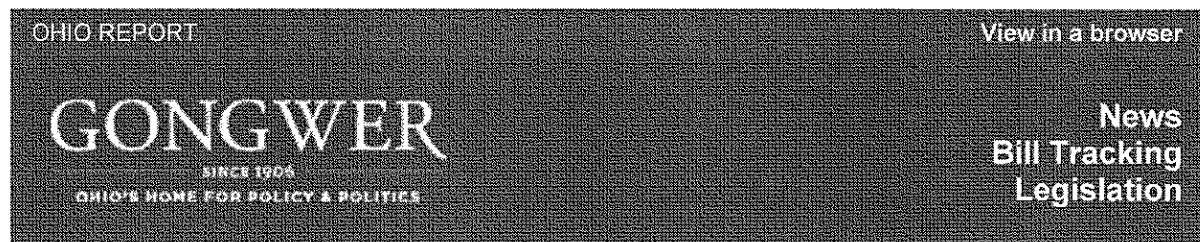
(insert space)

"I believe in individual freedom, and the right of a worker to be able to choose whether or not they want to belong to a union," Riedel added. "By bringing these Right-to-Work amendments forward as ballot issues, we are allowing the citizens of Ohio to have the final say."

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Ohio Report, Thursday, December 21, 2017
Attachments: Dec21House.htm; Dec21Senate.htm; 171221dayplan.htm; Dec21.htm

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High Court Green Lights Tax Board To Take Up \$500K NASCAR Appeal

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ACTIVITY REPORTS

House

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House Activity for Thursday, December 21, 2017

INTRODUCED

HJR 7

UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.) Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of public sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember public sector employees in employment-related matters.

Gongwer Coverage

HJR 8

UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.) Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of private sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember private sector employees in employment-related matters.

Gongwer Coverage

HJR 9

PREVAILING WAGE (Becker, J., Riedel, C.) Proposing to enact Section 43 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement to pay the contractor's workers the prevailing rate of wages for work performed on the public improvement.

Gongwer Coverage

HJR 10

PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS (Becker, J., Riedel, C.) Proposing to enact Section 2 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts.

Gongwer Coverage

HJR 11

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING (Becker, J., Riedel, C.) Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative.

Gongwer Coverage

HJR 12 ■

UNION DUES (Becker, J., Riedel, C.) Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit dues and other fees payable to an employee organization from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and to prohibit those dues and fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the public employee.
Gongwer Coverage

HB 454 ■

CEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner. Am. 517.073

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Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Senate Activity for Thursday, December 21, 2017

INTRODUCED

SB 246

STUDENT REMOVAL (Lehner, P., Manning, G.) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. Am. 3302.03, 3313.534, 3313.66, 3313.661, 3313.668, and 3319.46 and to enact section 3319.237

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Daily Activity Planner for Friday, December 22

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

No events scheduled.

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Volume #86, Report #245 -- Thursday, December 21, 2017

Speaker Tasks Universities With Engaging High Schoolers Impacted By Opiate Epidemic

University presidents are coming together to devise strategies for reaching out to youth impacted by the opiate epidemic.

They're doing so at the request of Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), who said he was recently inspired by a group of Waverly City Schools students impacted by addiction.

Many students in that district live with someone other than their parents and lack access to role models who can highlight life skills and opportunities to grow, he said in a recent column.



Speaker Rosenberger

Speaker Rosenberger said he believes universities can serve as the sources of those mentors.

"It's our communities who are going to help us in the drug epidemic, so how can we get college students to be those big brothers and sisters and give them some credit maybe for service-oriented things," he told reporters last week.

Another facet of his charge to universities is to consider how at-risk high school students can volunteer to earn credits toward college tuition, he said.

"Maybe they earn some credit or some dollars toward college credit so that they can have some ability to go out and do something," Speaker Rosenberger said.

Because reaching out to underserved populations dealing with the opiate crisis will be a priority for the legislature in 2018, he said he's eyeing legislation that would implement such mentorship and volunteer programs statewide. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 15, 2017)

University presidents began brainstorming immediately after meeting with the speaker earlier this month and will come back together in January to decide which ideas should be proposed, said Bruce Johnson, president of the Inter-University Council of Ohio.

Institutions have an essential role in the state's ongoing fight against opioids, he said, pointing to research that shows Ohioans with college degrees are 14 times less likely to die of overdoses than those who have only high school diplomas.

"One of the fundamental ways to attack opiate abuse in the state is to have a higher percentage of people in the state obtain a higher education," Mr. Johnson said.

"Students, particularly in hard-to-reach areas of the state, having mentors would help them manage their way through the difficulties and find their way to a public university," he added.

In areas of the state where the opiate epidemic has hit hardest, encouraging students to want to go to college is key because they often don't see higher education as a potential pathway, Mr. Johnson said.

"I think the thing that's really going to give students hope is a pathway which involves access to higher education," he said.

For that reason, it's possible the forthcoming plan will propose financial assistance for high school students who participate in a mentorship program and can show perseverance, Mr. Johnson said.

"Earning your way toward a college scholarship would be a great use of the state's resources," he said.

Any legislative proposals that come from the president's recommendations would be in addition to what universities are already doing on the opiate front, he said. Each university has undertaken initiatives to address the issue.

At Ohio University, low-income patients with substance abuse issues can receive free or low-cost treatment and drug dependent mothers-to-be are eligible for access to medication-assisted treatment programs, obstetrical care, social service benefits and other services. Similar services are provided at other university hospitals throughout the state.

Meanwhile, University of Akron is looking to help students who may be dealing with addiction by working with community agencies to develop supports and programming.

In the research realm, the University of Cincinnati recently received a \$1.5 million Third Frontier grant aimed at the epidemic. That total is in addition to \$32 million in research funding that's been awarded to the university to be put toward the cause.

Other universities are offering up their own dollars in an effort to find innovative solutions to the state's drug problem. The new Opioid Innovation Fund at Ohio State University will provide \$1 million in grants to public-private partnerships that develop programs or technologies to reduce the burden of the opiate crisis.

Right-To-Work, Prevailing Wage Proposals Unveiled In House

A slate of ballot proposals targeting labor laws was introduced Thursday in the House, drawing immediate pushback from one of the state's largest union groups.

The six joint resolutions from Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) and Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) would ban mandatory union dues for both public and private employees, limit prevailing wage and make other changes guaranteed to spark protests among Ohio's unions.

If passed by lawmakers, the issues would be placed on the 2020 ballot for voters to weigh in, according to Rep. Becker. He said he chose the resolution route after his prior legislative efforts went nowhere.

"It has to do with making Ohio more competitive," Rep. Becker said in an interview. "Currently, Ohio is being left behind. Four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states are right to work. With 28 (right-to-work) states in the union, the trend is clearly in that direction."

Two of the resolutions (HJR 7 & HJR 8) would ban any laws, rules or agreements requiring public and private sector employees to join or pay union dues. They would also prohibit unions from representing non-members in employment-related matters.

Other resolutions would:

- Prevent a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement project to pay workers the prevailing rate of wages (HJR 9).
- Forbid certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts (HJR 10).
- Subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative (HJR 11).
- Prohibit dues and other fees from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and prohibit those fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the employee (HJR 12).

Along with Messrs. Becker and Riedel, nine other representatives have signed on as cosponsors of one or more of the resolutions.

Rep. Becker said Republican leaders, House Speaker candidates and Republican gubernatorial candidates have all told him the same thing: If Ohio is to become a right-to-work state, it needs to be a decision driven by voters.

"They've all got this one consistent theme: the voters have to decide," Rep. Becker said. "I'm taking them at their word and saying fine, let's move forward with that. That's what these resolutions would do. They go on the ballot for people to decide."

Brad Miller, a spokesman for House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), said the speaker will review the proposals.

"The issue of right-to-work has been brought forward numerous times in recent years, and it always generates an important and interesting discussion amongst the caucus," Mr. Miller said. "Since Rep. Becker's resolution was introduced just today, Speaker Rosenberger will review the legislation and will seek input from caucus members before any potential future actions are determined."

Tim Burga, president of the Ohio AFL-CIO, said that neither employers nor employees in Ohio are seeking these changes.

"These proposals are a frontal assault on workers," Mr. Burga said. "It does three things: It takes away rights at work, it drives down wages, and it strips workers of their political beliefs. It's really policies that attack the foundation of what's been a catalyst to create Ohio's working class."

Ohio House Democrats will likewise fight the proposals should they gain traction, with Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) calling them "dangerous, divisive bills."

"Taxpayers expect us to work together to increase opportunity and create jobs with wages and benefits that can sustain a family," Rep. Strahorn said. "These anti-worker, anti-family restrictions will do the exact opposite."

Opponents point to the public's rejection of 2011's Senate Bill 5 - in which voters voted 62-38% to repeal a law that limited collective bargaining for public employees - as evidence that Ohioans don't support such a move. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 8, 2011)

For that reason, Gov. John Kasich, commenting on prior right-to-work legislation from Rep. Becker and others, has said right-to-work is "not on my agenda."

But Rep. Becker contends that SB5 (129th General Assembly) wasn't truly a right-to-work bill was but more focused on strikes, benefits and union negotiations. In his view, voters haven't weighed in on the issue since 1958 when voters by a 63-36% margin rejected a right-to-work amendment.

Rep. Becker said he approached Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford) about supporting the resolutions but neither has signed on at this point as a cosponsor. Both men are vying to succeed Rep. Rosenberger as speaker.

But the sponsor said he believes the measures would have support in the caucus.

"In conversations with plenty of other colleagues beyond those nine (cosponsors) it's a whole lot of, 'We don't want to go on record with it' or 'we want to see which direction it goes,'" Rep. Becker said. "They just don't want to be in front of it right out of the gate. There's a lot of support, it's just not necessarily public."

Mr. Burga, though, said the proposals are a "political assault authored by out-of-state interests."

"It's never a good time to introduce bad policy but again this is an extreme measure without a constituency," Mr. Burga said. "I would say Ohioans deserve better than this. Just like on Senate Bill 5, we will fight these proposals and encourage legislators to work together to find common ground to create jobs and raise wages."

Children Services Agencies See Growing Burden From Drug Crisis; Overdose Deaths Tallied

The opiate epidemic continues to put a strain on Ohio's foster care system, with a thousand more kids expected to spend the holidays in foster care this year compared to 2016, a report released Thursday found.

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio said the drug problem is driving a dramatic surge in demand for foster care, with the number of children in agency custody rising from 12,654 in July 2013 to 15,145 last July.

At this rate, the state would reach 20,000 kids in care by 2020, with the cost of placing them in foster homes and residential facilities rising to more than \$500 million per year.

"We are sounding the alarm now - we need help," PCSAO Executive Director Angela Sausser said in a statement. "We need substantially more state resources before we lose the ability to provide essential services to vulnerable children."

The data indicate increasing rates of growth in the number of children in care, with the total rising from 15,145 on July 1 to more than 15,500 on Oct. 1.

The association pointed to some help it received from the legislature in the budget bill (HB 49), an additional \$15 million. Yet foster care placement costs have increased by about \$45 million since last year, not counting staffing or other agency services, the group said.

"Ohio needs a long-term solution to this crisis - and leadership to get us there before agency budgets collapse and our workforce jumps ship," Ms. Sausser said. "We already have a lack of available foster homes in Ohio. With the projected increases, we will have children sleeping in county agency lobbies with no available foster family to take them in."

Other state efforts include work by Attorney General Mike DeWine's office including a 14-county pilot project designed to help families affected by parental opioid abuse. (See

Gongwer Ohio Report, March 24, 2017) Another effort by the AG's office provides more funding for children services agencies to boost the number of foster families available. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 20, 2017)

Ms. Sausser pointed to work in California, where that state is realigning services along a continuum of care.

The increase in placements, she said, doesn't include the number of children placed with relatives.

"Placing abused and neglected children with kin leads to better long-term outcomes and is far less costly to government, but it means that grandparents on fixed incomes and aunts with kids of their own must find a way to pay for food, clothes, child care and other expenses," she said. "The legislature stepped up again and provided \$15 million a year in federal funds to create child care assistance for kinship families. However, that program has been delayed."

Overdose Totals: In a related development, new data released by the federal government show Ohio with the second-highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the country at 39.1 per 100,000 in 2016.

The numbers released by the National Center for Health Statistics showed Ohio with 4,329 overdose deaths last year, up from the 4,050 reported by the Department of Health in August. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 30, 2017)

Ohio's overdose total was exceeded only by those of Pennsylvania, California and Florida.

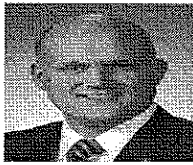
In terms of the death rate, Ohio's 39.1 per 100,000 ranked behind only West Virginia, which had a rate of 52. New Hampshire was at 39.0, the District of Columbia at 38.8 and Pennsylvania at 37.9.

National totals showed a continued increase in deaths from heroin and other opioids, coupled with a dramatic surge in the number of deaths from synthetic opioids other than methadone. Those deaths totaled 3,105, or 1 per 100,000, in 2013, but rose to more than 19,000, or a rate of 6.2, in 2016.

House Republican Announces Plan To Crack Down Drug Dealers

Drug dealers in Ohio could face much stiffer penalties under a proposal unveiled Thursday.

Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) announced plans to introduce legislation that would boost trafficking charges for all Schedule I and Schedule II substances, with the exception of marijuana, to a minimum third-degree felony that carries a mandatory prison term.



Scott Wiggam

"No longer will drug dealers be able to operate in this state with little fear for the law," Rep. Wiggam said during a Statehouse news conference.

While the lawmaker praised the state's effort to combat the drug epidemic, including \$180 million in the two-year budget (HB 49), he said deterrence and accountability are missing, and hopes his bill will provide those two components to the fight.

Over the past four years, he said, overdose deaths have skyrocketed by 212%, while traffickers going to prison fell by 4% over that same time period.

"Ohio's law is too weak to deter drug traffickers from continuing to flood our streets with their products," he said. "Law enforcement officers have grown weary and demoralized from arresting the same criminals for drug trafficking only to see them released into our society with little more than a slap on the wrist."

Wayne County Prosecutor Dan Lutz voiced that frustration. He said a trafficker in his county was recently arrested after knowingly selling heroin mixed with fentanyl that led to a user's overdose death. Among the charges his office brought was involuntary manslaughter, which was later amended to reckless homicide.

Nonetheless, Mr. Lutz said the judge in the case was not pleased with the man being charged for the death of the user and told defense counsel to seek a bench trial, which they did. The individual was eventually found guilty of a single drug trafficking charge.

"Amazingly, he sentenced him to only probation," Mr. Lutz said, adding the man went right back to selling heroin.

The bill will not differentiate between those who are trafficking large amounts of drugs for profit and those who are selling small amounts to support a habit. Mr. Lutz said both are killing people by selling deadly drugs.

"We want to deter that," he said. "We want to make it too costly to do that."

Despite the bill treating addicts and large-scale traffickers the same, Rep. Wiggam said it does not take away from changes in law in recent years that have sought to treat those two groups of individuals differently in the criminal justice system.

"If you are an addict and you are selling, you are still engaged in selling," he said.

As for the impact on the state's prison population, Rep. Wiggam said he is unsure exactly how his legislation will impact the numbers. He added that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has yet to take a position on the bill.

But Mr. Lutz said when discussing the state's prison population, the cost-benefit analysis does not take into account the cost savings from not having people on the streets "wreaking havoc."

"Some people need to be locked up in prisons, and these are those people," he said.

Asked about the philosophy of some in the law enforcement community, including Attorney General Mike DeWine, who has repeatedly said the state cannot "arrest its way out" of the drug problem, Mr. Lutz said that attitude needs to change.

"We've got to prevent people from getting on this stuff in the first place," he said.

Mike Brem, president of the Ohio Task Force Commanders Association, likened the battle against opioids to the fight against crack.

"We feel this penalty increase will deter drug traffickers as it did the same way with the crack epidemic in the 80's," he said.

The legislation, dubbed the "Drug Trafficking Deterrence Act," has 18 co-sponsors, according to Rep. Wiggam.

The bill also has the backing of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the OTFCA, Rep. Wiggam said.

'Significant Update' On Belmont County Ethane Cracker Slated For 2018

A Thai petrochemical company now says it will have news on whether it plans to move forward with a proposed world-class ethane cracker plant sometime after the new year.

PTT Global, Gov. John Kasich and JobsOhio leaders in 2015 announced at a Statehouse press conference that the company - Thailand's largest petrochemical and refining company - was eyeing Belmont County for the \$6 billion plant. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 22, 2015)

A final investment decision was initially expected in 2016 but was then pushed to 2017. Last February, the company announced it would postpone a final decision until late 2017 but with January drawing near the lack of recent news has kept locals hoping for an announcement in suspense. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 17, 2017)

On Thursday, the company foreshadowed a "significant update" sometime early next year.

"PTTGC America will have a significant update that will demonstrate momentum for this project early in 2018," the company said. "We thank all Ohio and Belmont County partners for their support, and we wish you a happy holiday season."

The last news of the project came in October, when JobsOhio and PTT representatives met in Washington D.C. to ink a memorandum of understanding. In the MOU, the parties agreed to establish a community infrastructure development plan after a final investment decision has been reached. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 6, 2017)

Asked about the project's status, JobsOhio spokesman Matt Englehart said talks are ongoing.

"While a final investment decision has not yet been made, PTTGCA continues to collaborate with JobsOhio and local partners while investing time and resources to move this project forward," he said.

JobsOhio and the Kasich administration have touted the potential project as a boon for region that will draw in jobs and economic revitalization.

The company had committed to a \$100 million investment as it considers the move and earlier this year purchased 168 acres from FirstEnergy for the site to the tune of \$13.8 million.

Despite that, the potential development of similar plants in nearby West Virginia and Pennsylvania subsequent to PTT's 2015 announcement has sparked speculation from those not involved in the talks regarding the Belmont County project's future.

Federal Judge Dismisses Property Owners' Lawsuit Against Nexus Pipeline

A federal district court judge has tossed out a lawsuit from dozens of Ohio property owners seeking to halt work on the Nexus Pipeline.

But it's hardly the only lawsuit targeting the construction of the \$2 billion, 255-mile natural gas pipeline that's yet to be resolved.

In May, 39 households - comprising 65 individuals - sued the company and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in an effort to halt the project.

The property owners said the company is improperly using eminent domain and argued FERC has failed to provide adequate information to homeowners regarding their options. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 15, 2017)

A magistrate in August issued a recommendation that the court deny plaintiffs' motion, opining that without formal FERC approval the court lacks adequate jurisdiction. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 8, 2017)

Weeks later, FERC approved the project, which Nexus argued in court filings made the lawsuit moot. Construction was then authorized to begin in October after several preconstruction conditions were met. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 13, 2017)

Judge John Adams agreed with the magistrate and his ruling this week from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio adopts the magistrate's prior recommendation in its entirety.

Plaintiffs may now appeal to the U.S. Sixth Circuit court of Appeals. That's the same court that late last month voted 2-1 to stay construction on an eight-mile stretch of the pipeline through the city of Green. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 27, 2017)

Green is one of several localities - with others including Oberlin, Bowling Green and Medina - that have protested the project.

Green's lawsuit argues the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency granted the project a 401 certification improperly because the agency was not provided with practicable alternative routes with a smaller adverse environmental impact.

Sierra Club had also sued FERC over the pipeline's status, pressing D.C. circuit court to require FERC to rehear the case. But the group was forced to petition for the case to be dismissed after the landowner at the heart of the complaint agreed to sell land to Nexus for the project.

Groups Highlight Economic Impacts Of 'Dreamers' In Push To Restore DACA

If Congress doesn't act to continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, Ohio could lose out on as much as \$12 million per year in tax revenue, according to a new report.

That total is how much the 9,000 Ohioans who are eligible for the program are currently paying in taxes, Policy Matters Ohio reported Thursday. All would be lost, however, if the protections for immigrants who are working and attending school are eliminated and those so-called Dreamers are deported.

If those same individuals stay in the state without DACA, many would likely take on lower-wage jobs, resulting in an estimated \$5 million tax revenue loss, the think tank said. About 4,000 Ohioans are actually participating in the program.

"Allowing DACA protections to expire would really hurt Ohio but passage of a Dream Act could boost out long-term economic output," Daniel Ortiz, outreach coordinator for Policy Matters Ohio, said in a conference call with reporters.

If Congress acts to reauthorize the program that was nixed by the Trump Administration in September, the state's gross domestic product could see a long-term annual impact of \$92 million, Mr. Ortiz said, citing Center for American Progress estimates.

Ohio's GDP could increase by more than \$300 million annually if half the eligible Dreamers earn college degrees to obtain permanent residence, he said.

"The Dream Act would put these young immigrants on a path to pay their taxes like everyone else and really could facilitate open participation in our communities," Mr. Ortiz said.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) has said he's working with Republicans on a bill that would continue protections for the children of illegal immigrants, however those who are impacted by and supportive of the program say Congress can't move quick enough. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 20, 2017)

If a continuation or replacement isn't approved by March 5, as many as 1,200 Dreamers per day throughout the country will see their DACA authorizations expire, Mr. Ortiz said. Under the administration's plan, those who are currently part of the program will be sheltered until their permits expire or up to two years, whichever comes first.

Elvis Saldias, a DACA recipient who lives in Columbus, said his permit expires in about six months and he's not legally permitted to continue working as a property claims adjuster if his authorization lapses by even one day.

The recent Ohio State University graduate who came to America from Boliva more than 15 years ago said he would also no longer be able to continue mentoring the state's youngest immigrants attending Columbus Global Academy.

"I need to continue doing what I'm doing," he said, adding: "I can't imagine the urgency behind those (whose authorizations) have already expired."

Mr. Saldias told reporters the DACA application process, which includes an extensive background check, takes about five months from start to finish - another reason legislation needs passed as soon as possible.

"If they pass a bill today, it doesn't mean we're going to get our renewed DACA...in the mail," he said.

Lynn Tramonte, Director of America's Voice Ohio, called the DACA rescission a crisis, saying Congress can't wait until it's up against the March deadline to make a decision.

"The deadline was September," when the administration stalled the program, she said on the conference call. "People became ineligible suddenly overnight and were unable to apply. Those qualified for renewal were cut off. It's a crisis and...it has really impacts on everybody's lives."

Calls for quick action are growing louder for DACA to be Congress's next order of business now that it's finalized a tax overhaul and appears headed for a Friday vote on another stop-gap funding bill to prevent a government shutdown.

On Wednesday, Gov. John Kasich joined 10 other governors in asking Congress to quickly find a bipartisan solution to the issue. About 800 colleges and universities in the country, including a handful from Ohio, have also pressed for a resolution. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 20, 2017)

U.S. Sen. Portman (R-Terrace Park) has said there is an interest in reinstating DACA into permanent law, but it may come with some parameters, such as a workforce enforcement program.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform, which backed President Trump's longtime plan to end the program and leave its future up to Congress, has also said DACA's recession opens the door to create a larger immigration strategy that could include building a southern border wall and defunding sanctuary cities.

"Congress should seize this opportunity to come together and forge these much-needed reforms in our nation's immigration policy," the group said in a statement.

High Court Green Lights Tax Board To Take Up \$500K NASCAR Appeal

The Board of Tax Appeals erred in dismissing an appeal filed by NASCAR, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

In a 6-1 per curiam decision, the court sided with the Florida-based company by finding that the BTA has jurisdiction to hear an appeal even when the notice is filed by an individual not licensed to practice law in Ohio on behalf of a taxpayer with authorization.

The decision hinged on a 1980 ruling in *Jemo Assoc., Inc. v. Lindley* in which the court found that any authorized agent may file an appeal on behalf of a taxpayer, even if doing so amounts to the unauthorized practice of law, the court's media arm reported.

After conducting an audit for tax years 2005 to 2010, the Department of Taxation in 2012 determined NASCAR failed to pay the Commercial Activity Tax for broadcasting its product in Ohio.

The company was assessed \$549,520, but filed a petition for reassessment with the tax commissioner, who affirmed the finding.

NASCAR then took its case to the BTA. But because its notice of appeal was filed by a Florida attorney not licensed to practice in Ohio, the BTA dismissed the case.

The high court, however, found that the BTA was wrong to do so.

"In this case, there appears to be no dispute that NASCAR authorized Bowen to file the notice of appeal to the BTA," the court wrote in its decision. "So under (state law) and *Jemo*, the notice of appeal filed by Bowen properly invoked the BTA's jurisdiction. Therefore, the BTA erred in dismissing NASCAR's appeal for lack of jurisdiction."

Justice Patrick Fischer was the lone dissenting voice in the case. He cited the 1997 high court case of *Sharon Village Ltd. V Licking Cty. Bd. of Revision*. In that case the court found that non-attorneys cannot file property value complaints on behalf of corporate taxpayers.

"I would hold that barring a statutory exception, when an appeal to the BTA is filed by a non-attorney, the non-attorney has engaged in the unauthorized practice of law and the BTA does not, therefore, have jurisdiction to hear the appeal," he wrote. "The nonbinding plurality opinion in *Jemo* does not conclude otherwise, and even if it could be read to do so, in light of *Sharon Village*, it has been superseded. For these reasons, it was neither unreasonable nor unlawful for the BTA to follow *Sharon Village* and its progeny and to not follow *Jemo*."

Poll Finds Democrats With Big Lead In Generic Congressional Ballots; Bacon Touts Fundraising; Scott Officially Enters District 12 Race...

A new poll released jointly Thursday by Morning Consult and POLITICO has ominous signs for Republicans heading into 2018.

The poll found that Democrats hold a 10-point lead over Republicans on generic midterm ballots, with 44% respondents indicating they would vote for a Democrat in November compared with 34% who said the same about a Republican.

That is an increase from the prior week when 41% of respondents said they would vote for the Democratic candidate. Republicans polled at 36% last week.

The poll also recorded the highest "wrong direction" mark since mid-October, with 63% of respondents saying they believe the country is headed in the wrong direction.

Another finding was that Republicans may be on the wrong side of the net neutrality debate, with 49% saying that repeal was the wrong decision and just 21% saying it was the right decision.

One of the few bright spots for Republicans in the poll is that enthusiasm is higher on their side, with 64% saying they are motivated to vote in 2018, compared to 56% of Democrats.

Fundraising Numbers: Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) took to Twitter Thursday to tout fundraising numbers for his bid to replace U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-Galena).

"Great fundraising results this week! We have \$120,000.00 in commitments and we begin collecting them Jan 2," he wrote.

Scott Announcement: On the Democratic of the 12th Congressional District Race, former Franklin County Sheriff Zach Scott formally announced his candidacy for the seat.

"I'm proud of the service and peace of mind I have provided to victims and their families over the past thirty years. Making communities safer by putting dangerous criminals behind bars while helping countless nonviolent offenders get their lives back on track hasn't just been my job - it's been my passion," he said.

"Now I'm going to take that same passion to Congress, where I will get laws passed that put our families and our communities first. Unfortunately, we have all seen too many Washington politicians who are more concerned with serving themselves than serving the public. All too often, Congress caters to powerful special interest groups while the pressing needs of everyday working families fall through the cracks."

Opioid Crisis: In light of a lawsuit filed against the pharmaceutical industry by Summit County and a report showing overdose deaths in Ohio increased by 24% in 2016, Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) called on drug manufacturers to take responsibility for their role in the opioid epidemic.

"Ohio's opioid epidemic is the result of a myriad of issues," she said. "The key players need to be held accountable and unfortunately, one of the largest is the pharmaceutical industry. By not being clear about the addictive properties of opioids, they have put Ohioans at risk for addiction. I believe this lawsuit is an excellent response to help hard working families needing a helping hand."

17 S. High St. Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
Jon Reed, Staff Writers

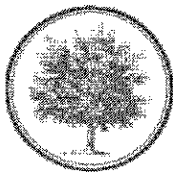
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2017 10:20 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Buckeye's Rea Hederman: Ohio's Employment Report was Naughty and Nice

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 22, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Buckeye's Rea Hederman: Ohio's Employment Report was Naughty and Nice

Columbus, OH - Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the Economic Research Center at **The Buckeye Institute** and vice president of policy, commented on newly released unemployment data from the **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**.

"In the last report of the year, the Ohio employment report was naughty and nice. The nice part was the unemployment rate falling three-tenths to 4.8 percent, a stable decline even as labor force participation grew. This indicates that the economy is growing fast enough to provide employment opportunities to willing workers.

"The naughty part is the payroll survey reported a decline of 3,300 private-sector jobs. The primary culprit was a sharp decline in retail trade (-6,400) as commerce continues to move online, which sparked an increase in transportation jobs (2,300).

"The numbers: The unemployment rate in Ohio fell to 4.8 percent from 5.1 percent. This is still greater than the national average of 4.1 percent. Ohioans are slightly more likely to be in the labor force (62.8 percent) than the national average (62.7 percent). The total number of job opportunities declined by 5,600 with 3,300 losses in the aviate sector. Manufacturing added jobs (2,500), while the service sector declined (5,600)."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 11:19 AM
To: 'Doug Livingston'
Subject: Voicemail

Hi Doug,

I just had a chance to listen to your voicemail from yesterday. If you are still seeking comment, the following can be attributed to me:

The issue of right-to-work has been brought forward numerous times in recent years, and it always generates an important and interesting discussion amongst the caucus. Since Rep. Becker's resolution was just recently introduced, Speaker Rosenberger will review the legislation and will seek input from caucus members before any potential future actions are determined.

Thanks,

Brad Miller
Deputy Communications Director / Press Secretary
Office of Speaker Clifford Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives
(614) 466-8759

From: Doug Livingston
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 11:22 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: RE: Voicemail

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov [mailto:Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 11:19 AM
To: Doug Livingston
Subject: Voicemail

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Thanks,

Brad Miller

Deputy Communications Director / Press Secretary
Office of Speaker Clifford Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives
(614) 466-8759

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 8:39 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, January 3

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NEWS

Lawmakers push right-to-work for 2020 ballot (Akron Beacon Journal, 1/3/2018)

Democrat in Ohio governor's race picks running mate: (Associated Press, 1/3/2018)

Ohioans can apply for amnesty to settle unreported tax debts: (Associated Press, 1/3/2018)

Ohio's child support system: Everyone agrees it's broken. But a fix has taken 25 years – and counting. (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/3/2018)

Ohio's move to toss inactive voters from rolls goes to court (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/3/2018)

Joe Schiavoni picks state board of education member as running mate (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/3/2018)

Medical device tax is back; industry seeks repeal (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/3/2018)

19-year-old takes office as city council member in eastern Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/3/2018)

Governor's race Q and A | Mary Taylor (Columbus Dispatch, 1/3/2018)

Joe Schiavoni picks Stephanie Dodd as running mate (Columbus Dispatch, 1/3/2018)

Ohio Supreme Court wants state's execution-drug records (Columbus Dispatch, 1/3/2018)

From pizza delivery robots, to boozy ice cream, a look at new Ohio laws (Dayton Daily News, 1/3/2018)

On Twitter, President Trump comes out swinging in 2018 (Dayton Daily News, 1/3/2018)

2018 could be a busy ballot year in Ohio (Toledo Blade, 1/3/2018)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: 2012 effort a dog of a law (Canton Repository, 1/3/2018)

Ohio lawmakers should keep the seriously mentally ill off Death Row: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/3/2018)

Senators working to turn tide of drug epidemic (Toledo Blade, 1/3/2018)

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From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 11:14 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: FW: **ON DEADLINE** cosponsor request Right-to-Work HJR/seeking comment

From: Blessing, Heather
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 11:05 AM
To: Rep65 <Rep65@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Willamowski, Sheila <Sheila.Willamowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Lenzo, Mike <Mike.Lenzo@ohiohouse.gov>; Basie, Margaret <Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: **ON DEADLINE** cosponsor request Right-to-Work HJR/seeking comment

Joe,

Thank you for your email. I will confer with Sheila and Mike on how to respond to the public records portion of the communication. As to the request from the reporter for comments, I would presume this is up to each member as to whether they wish to comment or not, but I would defer to Carolyn Best in communications on how best to respond to this part of the reporter's request.

Sincerely,
Heather Blessing

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
Deputy Legal Counsel / Deputy Budget Director
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives | 77 S. High Street Columbus, 14th Floor, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.466.9194 | Mobile: 614.352.5819 | Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov

From: Rep65
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 11:01 AM
To: Blessing, Heather <Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Willamowski, Sheila <Sheila.Willamowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Lenzo, Mike <Mike.Lenzo@ohiohouse.gov>; Basie, Margaret <Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: FW: **ON DEADLINE** cosponsor request Right-to-Work HJR/seeking comment

Heather,

Thank you for requesting this email. Margaret in Rep. Riedel's office did not receive a call (just this email) from reporter Keith Arnold.

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: Keith Arnold [<mailto:karnold@thedailyreporteronline.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 10:01 AM

To: Swedberg, Emily <Emily.Swedberg@ohiohouse.gov>; Rep82 <Rep82@ohiohouse.gov>

Cc: Rep65 <Rep65@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: ****ON DEADLINE**** cosponsor request Right-to-Work HJR/seeking comment

Good morning. Please provide a copy of any cosponsor request the representatives may have sent to their peers on the series of right-to-work proposals introduced in the House.

Also, I'm looking for comment on the representatives' rationale to throw this series of issues back to the voters rather than legislate the changes themselves.

I see Rep. Riedel is on the record saying, " ... we are allowing the citizens of Ohio to have the final say," but that rings of political expedience — voters elected each of the representatives to make the hard decisions for them.

Please elaborate.

I must file by 11:30 a.m. today. Email responses are acceptable as are those by phone at the no. below.

Thanks in advance for any assistance.

Best,

Keith Arnold

Staff Writer

The Daily Reporter

www.thedailyreporteronline.com

614/228-6397

From: Blessing, Heather
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 11:36 AM
To: Best, Carolyn; Miller, Brad
CC: Becker, John; Michalowski, Joe
Subject: column mistake in Enquirer
Attachments: A_ Main.pdf

If you go to the "E Edition" of the Enquirer, which is the actual print layout of the hard copy paper, and look at section A-15, you will see the error which shows that Rep. Becker's name and picture are affixed next to an anti-right to work column that Bridget Kelly supposedly wrote. See attached PDF.

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
Deputy Legal Counsel / Deputy Budget Director
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives | 77 S. High Street Columbus, 14th Floor, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.466.9194 | Mobile: 614.352.5819 | Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov

State lawmakers should avoid any right-to-work proposal like the plague

While everyone was getting into the holiday spirit of giving, a colleague of mine in the Ohio House was circulating six dangerous and divisive amendments to our Constitution — amendments that would only take away from working families.

These radical changes to the Ohio Constitution and anti-family ideas are corroded with the fingerprints of the billionaire Koch brothers and anti-American propaganda organizations Americans for Prosperity and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). These special interest groups are driven by greed and power. It makes absolutely no sense that people with that much money would spend so much time, effort and resources trying to deprive working people of food on their table, roofs over their heads, and day-to-day dignity and security.

The six proposed amendments to the Ohio Constitution are all related to a nefarious and deceptive concept known as “right to work.” Time and time again, we’ve seen that right-to-work experiment leads to lower wages, more injuries and deaths in the workplace, and employees are stripped of their voice and rights. But failed experiments don’t seem to get in the way of destructive ideology.

The bottom line: Lawmakers elected by Ohio citizens should not sign on to an agenda directed by out-of-state special interests who don’t care about the people we are elected to serve.

We’ve been down this road before. In 2011, the out-of-state interests pushed lawmakers to ramrod Senate Bill 5 through the process to deny employees of their collective bargaining rights. We successfully fought back by collecting 1.3 million signatures, amassing 17,000 volunteers and vetoing SB 5 by a 62-38 percent margin. In 2011, SB 5 was unfair, unsafe and hurt us all. Today is no different.

Prior to being elected to the Ohio House, I worked for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. We took to the streets because it wasn’t just nurses, firefighters, police officers, teachers and other public service employees who would have been negatively impacted by that law; it was our neighbors and our state.

I have spent a tremendous amount of time knocking on doors and talking directly to Ohioans about our future.

What people around the state have asked for are better wages, improved workplace safety, increased benefits like health care and pensions, and the recognition that hard work should be respected and dignified.

The sponsor of these amendments stands alone on his proposals. The only ones backing him are billionaires like the Koch brothers.

The proposed amendments would put right to work into the Ohio Constitution for private- and public-sector employees. They would repeal prevailing wage laws and project labor agreements that ensure top-level talent protect our tax dollars. And they would put the state where it doesn’t belong: at the table where employers and employees meet to make decisions that are best for everyone involved in the company.

Lawmakers should be speaking directly with working people and families, and telling the Koch brothers, Americans for Prosperity and ALEC to stay out of Ohio and keep their mitts off of the Ohio Constitution that protects our families.

State lawmakers should avoid these dangerous and divisive proposals like the plague. Instead, we should be embarking, together, on a joint effort to raise wages, increase safety, ensure hardworking people are rewarded with the security these salaries and benefits bring.

Republican John Becker is a thirdterm state representative for Ohio’s 65th District in Clermont County.



Your Turn

John Becker Guest columnist

1/3/2018

A: Main

No one has asked me to introduce or support any one of the constitutional amendments being proposed.

Wednesday, 01/03/2018 Pag.A15

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From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 11:41 AM
To: Blessing, Heather; Best, Carolyn
CC: Becker, John; Michalowski, Joe
Subject: RE: column mistake in Enquirer

I can reach out to the Enquirer editorial board staff, inform them of the error and seek correction.

From: Blessing, Heather
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 11:36 AM
To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Becker, John <John.Becker@ohiohouse.gov>; Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
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Office: 614.466.9194 | Mobile: 614.352.5819 | Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov

From: Blessing, Heather
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To: Miller, Brad; Best, Carolyn
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I defer to the member's office, but I believe that would be an advisable course of action.

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
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To: Blessing, Heather <Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>
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From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 11:45 AM
To: Blessing, Heather; Miller, Brad; Best, Carolyn
CC: Becker, John
Subject: Re: column mistake in Enquirer

Yes, please reach out to the Enquirer as described. Thanks!

Joe Michalowski
Legislative Aide
State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Blessing, Heather" <Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov>
Date: 1/3/18 11:41 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Miller, Brad" <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>, "Best, Carolyn" <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: "Becker, John" <John.Becker@ohiohouse.gov>, "Michalowski, Joe" <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: column mistake in Enquirer

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Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
Deputy Legal Counsel / Deputy Budget Director
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives | 77 S. High Street Columbus, 14th Floor, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.466.9194 | Mobile: 614.352.5819 | Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov

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Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 11:41 AM
To: Blessing, Heather <Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Becker, John <John.Becker@ohiohouse.gov>; Michalowski, Joe

<Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>

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<Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>

Cc: Becker, John <John.Becker@ohiohouse.gov>; Michalowski, Joe

<Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>

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Heather N. Blessing, Esq.

Deputy Legal Counsel / Deputy Budget Director

Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger

Ohio House of Representatives | 77 S. High Street Columbus, 14th Floor, Ohio 43215

Office: 614.466.9194 | Mobile: 614.352.5819 | Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov

From: Willamowski, Sheila
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 12:02 PM
To: Michalowski, Joe; Swedberg, Emily; Basie, Margaret
CC: Lenzo, Mike; Best, Carolyn; Miller, Brad; Blessing, Heather
Subject: FW: Public Records Request - Ohio House

Dear Joe, Emily, and Margaret,

I have sent the following on to Mr. Arnold. I'll follow-up with you once I hear back from him. Please contact my cell if you have any questions. Thank you.

Best,
Sheila

From: Willamowski, Sheila
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 11:58 AM
To: 'karnold@thedailyreporteronline.com' <karnold@thedailyreporteronline.com>
Subject: Public Records Request - Ohio House

Dear Mr. Arnold,

This email serves to acknowledge your public records request, made today, for a copy of records (from the current General Assembly) regarding:

1. "Co-sponsor requests sent to their peers on the series of right-to-work proposals introduced in the House."

To ensure we are providing you the appropriate records, can you please clarify the following:

1. Whether the request is made specifically to Reps. Riedel and Becker (and their staff).
 - a. One staffer on the email you sent now works for Rep. Dean. Did you wish to direct your request to the office of Rep. Dean as well?
2. Whether the request is limited to their six jointly introduced proposed constitutional amendments regarding right-to-work, or if it is to include *any* co-sponsor request sent from those offices regarding right-to-work legislation (including those bills sponsored with other members).

Once confirmed, we will begin processing your request. Please contact our office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sheila Louise Willamowski

Deputy Legal Counsel

House Republican Caucus

Ohio House of Representatives

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From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 4:48 PM
To: Miller, Brad
CC: 'John@BeckerGOP.com'
Subject: Guest editorial due 5 PM: Becker RTW Const. Am's
Attachments: Guest Editorial Enquirer 1.7.18- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.docx; Guest Editorial Enquirer 1.7.18- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf

Brad,

Please forgive us for the delay. Attached are the Word and PDF versions of the guest editorial due at 5 PM today to be published Sunday.

Please send only the PDF version to the Kevin Aldridge:
kaldridge@CINCINNA.GANNETT.COM

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

Becker: New Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments level the playing field for each Ohioan

COLUMBUS—Right-to-work has been a success in the 28 states where it has been enacted. Now that Indiana and Kentucky both have right-to-work laws on the books, I believe it is now more important that the Queen City maintains our competitive advantage with our neighbors to the south and west. Use various phrases: The Tri-State; Greater Cincinnati;

- HJR 8: Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Furthermore, this amendment will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
- HJR 7: Public-sector Right-to-Work – This legislation is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
- HJR 9: Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
- HJR 12: Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This amendment prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.
- HJR 10: Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This legislation is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from minimizing competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
- HJR 11: Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers’ bargaining units. This amendment will open up

competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

With 11 State Representatives sponsoring one or more of them, Becker and Riedel are asking Ohio's General Assembly to put all of them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. "Now that 28 states- and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states- have enacted Right-to-Work laws, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment," said Becker. "Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future," Becker continued.



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Bottom: 1.39"

Becker: New Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments level the playing field for every Ohioan

Right-to-work has been a success in the 28 states where it has been enacted. Now that Indiana and Kentucky both have right-to-work laws on the books, I and a significant portion of the General Assembly believe it is more important than ever that our state reestablish our competitive advantage with our neighbors. People keep asking me why we can't get Right-to-Work accomplished in Ohio. The "powers that be" tell me that it needs to be voted on by the people. An Ohio constitutional amendment is the only way the General Assembly can put an issue before the voters. Therefore, I've initiated the following:

- Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Furthermore, this amendment will tell the world that Ohio is "open for business."
- Public-sector Right-to-Work – This legislation is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
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- Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This amendment will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

Studies have shown that job and wage growth have increased after the passage of right-to-work laws in other states. Employees will be able to keep more of their own money because union bosses will not be able to force individuals to give a portion of their hard-earned money to the union. They will be able to bargain directly with their employer, and if unsatisfied with their current situation, have greater flexibility to seek employment elsewhere. Having a right-to-work law increases competition in the business community. If there are no barriers to entry like forced unionism, competition among employers to retain their workforce increases because employees are freer to move from one job to another seeking higher compensation.

As you might imagine, the union bosses' heads have been spinning wildly since these went public. They believe that the best way to maintain union membership is through force rather than persuasion. Competing in the free market of ideas and the freedom of association is what they fear the most. It's so much easier to collect union dues when they use the words, "or else you're fired!"

If the General Assembly approves these initiatives as drafted, they will appear on the November 2020 ballot for the people to decide. My hope is to provide the people with a chance to vote on matters of critical economic importance.

Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.



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